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A VIEW OF THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS, SEATS, ANTIQUITIES, AND OTHER REMARKABLE PARTICULARS IN DORSET.

Compiled from Mr. HUTCHINS's Hiſtory of that COUNTY.

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MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

THE County of DORSET, whoſe antient inhabitants had the name of DUROTRIGES, from their *maritime ſituation*, *Dwr* in Britiſh ſignifying *water*, and *Tryg* an *inhabitant*, lies between 50° 30′, and 51° 6′ N. latitude, and 1° 58′ and 30° 18′ W. longitude; being in length from E. to W. 50 miles, and in breadth from N. to S. 30. The north parts are a fertile ſoil, intermixed with woods and foreſts, interſperſed with many graſſy hills, which feed numerous flocks of ſheep. The ſouth part, running down to the ſea, conſiſts of rich paſtures, and vallies abounding with corn. It contains 29 hundreds, nine boroughs, 22 market-towns, and 248 pariſhes; and is watered by, or gives riſe to, four conſiderable rivers, Ax, Frome, Stour, and Ivel, or Parret.

This county appears to have made no inconſiderable figure in the time of the Romans, if we may judge by the many camps ſcattered about it, which there are good reaſons for aſcribing to that people; as alſo from their Ikening ſtreet and ſeveral vicinal ways, and the two capital ſtations at *Durnovaria* or Dorcheſter, and *Vindogladia* or Winborn, to which Doctor Stukeley adds, *Ibernium* or Bere Regis. Of the Saxon times we have more certainty, as alſo of the ravages of the Danes, of the dreadful plague which depopulated this county, with the reſt of the kingdom, in the middle of the fourteenth century, and of the tranſactions here during the late civil wars, wherein the higher ranks took part with the king, the manufacturers and peaſantry with the parliament, to the deſtruction of ſeveral of its moſt magnificent caſtles and other buildings.

Dorſet had for three centuries and a half a biſhop of its own at Sherborn; afterwards became ſubject to the ſee of Sarum; and ever ſince the Reformation, has made part of the dioceſe of Briſtol.

Among its eminent natives, we may reckon Morton, Pole, and Wake, archbiſhops of Canterbury; Sprat and Stillingfleet biſhops of Rocheſter and Worceſter; John Ruſſel anceſtor of the Bedford, and Anthony Aſhley Cooper of the Shaftſbury, families; Sir Simond Dewes, Sir George Summers, who gave his name to Bermudas; Col. Giles Strangeways, commemorated by a ſilver medal, for his ſufferings in the cauſe of C. I.; Sir Hugh Wyndham, Juſtice of the Common Pleas in the reign of C. II.; Sir James Thornhill the painter: among phyſicians, Gliſſon, Highmore, and Sydenham; and among poets, Creech and Pitt, and, as there is good reaſon to believe, Mat. Prior.

The firſt town in this county, on entering it from Hampſhire, is POOL, a market and borough town, and a county of itſelf. It became conſi-

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derable in the reign of Henry VI. who transferred to it the privileges of Melcombe Regis. Its haven is good, but difficult of acceſs, and remarkable for the tide flowing four times in 24 hours. The principal trade of this town is with Newfoundland, and in 1770, 250 ſhips belonged to it.

At *Canford*, in this neighbourhood, the ſeat of Sir John Webb bart. was lately ſtanding part of an old houſe built by William Monteacute firſt Earl of Salisbury, or his father, in the reign of Edward II. or III.

In *Litchet Matravers* church is the monument of Sir John Matravers, who ſo cruelly treated the unfortunate king Edward II. who was committed to his cuſtody. He retired to Flanders till he obtained his pardon of Edward III. and dying 1365, was buried here, under a plain ſlab of grey marble, adorned with a braſs fret, his arms.

The Iſland of Purbeck is in reality only a peninſula, of an irregular oval form; in length about 12 miles, in breadth 10 miles. It comprehends two Hundreds; and nature ſeems to have divided it into two parts, by two ranges of high hills. The eaſtern part is moſt fertile, a deep rich country, but ſtony. Near Langton and Swanwich we meet with ſome wood, the remains of a large foreſt[a]. Moſt of the weſtern part of the iſland is a barren, heathy, and open country; but interſperſed with ſome ſpots of fertile land. The air is healthy, the ſoil generally a deep clay, and in the E. and S. parts very ſtony; ſo that the roads are always unpleaſant, and in winter almoſt impaſſable. On the high grounds corn grows; but the ſtrong ſoil and frequent fogs make the harveſt late. There is alſo paſture for ſome ſheep.

The foreſt ſeems generally to have been reſerved by our princes, eſpecially in the Saxon times, for their own diverſion. It extended over the whole iſland, reaching quite to Wareham, and was well ſtocked with red and fallow deer, and ſtags, eſpecially in the W. part; but theſe were deſtroyed in the civil wars. King James I. was the laſt of our kings who hunted here, 1615. By ancient uſage, before the civil war, the mayor and barons, and eight of the corporation who have borne the office of mayor, accompanied by the gentlemen of the iſland, had leave from the lord of the caſtle to hunt and kill a ſtag yearly, on May-day, in the weſtern woods; which was performed with great ſolemnity, and concourſe of people[b].

In the Saxon times, this iſland is memorable only for the murder of St. Edward, at Corfe-caſtle; and the wreck of the Daniſh fleet, at Swanwich, A. D. 877, when no leſs than 120 of their ſhips were loſt[c].

The government of the iſland, was anciently exerciſed by a lord lieutenant, generally the governor of Corfe-caſtle, who was admiral of the iſland, and governour of Brownſea-caſtle, and had power to raiſe and muſter a militia. This power ceaſed, when the militia act was paſſed in 1757, Mr. Bankes not entering his claim; and the direction of it is now under the lord lieutenant of the county. The great privileges enjoyed by this iſland, for the moſt part, ceaſed after the demolition of Corfe caſtle.

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[a] Bromton. Camden Brit. Coker's Survey of Dorſet. [b] Coker. Mercurius Ruſticus.

[c] Saxon Chronicle.

It was anciently divided into the E. and W. *Bayliwick*, the former containing *Rowbarrow*, the latter *Haſler* hundred; which laſt ſeems to be of moſt note, being moſt frequently mentioned.

In former ages, there were many gentlemens ſeats diſperſed all over the iſland, now converted into farm houſes. Moſt of them are ancient and large, and ſeem formerly to have been larger. They were probably built for the reception and convenience of our nobility and gentry, who attended the royal hunts here. The owners of eſtates, ſeem to have been chiefly reſidents of other countries, and here only in the hunting ſeaſon; when that was over, they retired to their uſual ſeats, and dying there, their inquiſitions were taken in thoſe countries, ſo that we have very little account of the owners and deſcent of eſtates in this iſland. The only gentlemens ſeats now in the iſland, are Mr. *Pitt's* at *Encomb*, Mr. *Clavel's* at *Smedmore*, Mr. *Bond's* at *Grange*, and Mr. *Serrel's* at *Langton*.

Many tumuli are ſcattered all over the iſland. The Nine Barrows near Corfe are probably Britiſh. Thoſe round Pool and Studland bay, Daniſh. Some, in other parts of the iſland, may be Roman. They are generally round, ſome ſingle, ſome in groups; moſtly on hills, riſing ground, or long ridges in the heath.

The quarries, ſhores, and cliffs, on the S. ſide, afford an inexhauſtible fund of natural curioſities. The former are chiefly near Kingſton, Worth, Langton, and Swanwich. In many parts of the iſland is a ſtone, that riſes thin, and is uſed for tiling; alſo a hard paving ſtone, which ſweats againſt change of weather. Much of it was uſed in re-building of London after the fire, particularly St. Paul's cathedral; and for paving the ſtreets and courts. In the new bridge at Weſtminſter, over the ſoffit of each arch built with large Portland block, is another arch of Purbeck, bounded in with Portland ſtone. Great quantities were carried to build Ramſgate pier. This is the ammites, ſandſtone or free-ſtone, of various colours and qualities. At Swanwich is a white ſtone, full of ſhells, which takes a poliſh, and looks like alabaſter; there is another of the ſame ſort, but not ſo hard. All over the heath, in this iſland, and about Wareham and Morden, is found a ſtone of an iron colour, called fire-ſtone; it riſes in blocks, ſometimes very large; the ſurface is hard and ſmooth, but the inſide is of a gritty ſandy ſubſtance; there is a kind of a quarry of it at Eaſt-Holme.

At and near Dunſhay, was formerly dug marble of ſeveral colours, blue, red, ſpotted, and grey, but chiefly the latter; all of a coarſe ſort. The grey is a congeries of ſhells. Vaſt quantities of it are found in all our ancient churches; and it was in great repute for grave-ſtones, and monuments. The pillars in Saliſbury cathedral are thought to be compoſed of this marble.

When the executors of Richard Beauchamp earl of Warwick erected, purſuant to his will, his magnificent tomb in Lady chapel, on the S. ſide of the choir of St. Mary's at Warwick, which was begun 21 H. VI. and perfected 3 E. IV. but not conſecrated till 15 E. IV. and inferior to none in England, except that of H. VII. in Weſtminſter Abby, they covenanted 55 H. VI. with John Borde of Corfe, marbler, to make the earl's tomb of fine and well-coloured marble, four feet and a half high from the pace: the pace ſix inches thick, and eighteen broad; the uppermoſt ſtone of the baſe nine feet long, four broad, and ſeven inches thick; and to have, for the marble, carriage to Warwick, and work, 45l.; for marble to pave the chapel, workmanſhip, and carriage of every hundred of theſe ſtones, 40s.; in all, 4l. 13s. 4d. The charges of the chapel and tomb came to 2481l. 4s. 7d. ob.[g] A vaſt ſum, when the price of an ox was 13s. 4d. and a quarter of bread corn 3s. 4d.

The Cornua Ammonis are frequently found in ſtones in the quarries, ſome two or three feet in diameter. The copperas ſtone is found on the ſhores at Smedmore and Kimmeridge; and in the cliffs is a bituminous ſort of coal. Here were formerly many salterns on the bay of Pool, particularly at Studland, Middleburgh, &c. and, in later times, Sir W. Clavel made allum, ſalt, and glaſs, at Kimeridge; but now all theſe works are neglected and ruined. The beſt tobacco pipe clay is found near Norden, in Corfe pariſh. On the heath, in watry places, a pale blue ſingle gentianella grows wild. About Studland and Aggleſtone, we meet with the orcheſton or red ſilky long graſs.

Though Purbeck abounds with ſprings, the moſt conſiderable rivulets in it are the Corf, which, riſing near Lutton, falls into the ſea near Wych, and another that runs into it, near St. Edward's Bridge. Two very ſmall brooks fall into Swanwich bay.

The ancient town of CORFE-CASTLE, which makes ſuch a figure in the Saxon hiſtory, lyes near the centre of the iſland, at the foot of thoſe hills that divide the N. part from the S. It is diſtant from London 93 computed, and 116½ meaſured, miles; ſeated near the caſtle, on a riſing ground that declines to the E. and conſiſts of two ſtreets, called E. and W. ſtreets. The houſes are mean, but built of ſtone, and tiled.

The marblers or quarriers carry on ſome trade in ſtone, which was formerly exported at Owre, now altogether at Swanwich. Another ſmall branch of trade is knitting of ſtockings. Here are two fairs, May 1, and October 18, O. S. A market, granted 32 H. III. was held here on Thurſdays, but it is now quite decayed.

The manor and caſtle, which always went together, were often granted to princes of the blood, and the favourites of our kings, and often reverted by forfeiture, attainder, *&c.* The perſons to whom we find theſe grants made, were, *Thomas Holland*, earl of *Kent*, t. R. II.; *John Beaufort*, earl of *Somerſet*, t. H. IV.; *Edmund*, marquis of *Dorſet*, and afterwards duke of *Somerſet*, t. H. VI.; *George*, duke of *Clarence*, t. E. IV; *Margaret*, counteſs of *Richmond*, t. H. VII.; the great and unfortunate duke of *Somerſet*, t. E. VI.; and, laſt of all, ſir *Chriſtopher Hatton*, t. Eliz. Sir Chriſtopher's ne-

[g] Dugdale's Warwickſh. Vol. II. p. 445.

phew, ſir *William Newport*, left them to his wife; who carrying them to her ſecond huſband, lord chief juſtice *Coke*, he, in 1635, ſold them to ſir *John Banks*, whoſe great grandſon, *John Banks*, eſq. now poſſeſſes it.

The lord of the manor was lord lieutenant of the iſland, an hereditary office, ſcarce enjoyed by any private perſon in the kingdom: he had alſo a power of appointing all officers in the iſland, and all actions and ſuits were determined by his bailiff or deputy: he is alſo admiral of the iſle, and has all wrecks, except where there is a grant to the contrary, freedom from the lord high admiral, and power to array the militia; but theſe privileges are almoſt loſt or neglected.

Corfe-Caſtle was an ancient borough by preſcription, though it never ſent members to parliament till 14 Eliz.; a privilege probably procured for it by ſir Chriſtopher Hatton, who obtained a charter for the borough in the eighteenth year of that reign. But the privileges granted by it, though great, were rather veſted in the lord of the manor than the burgeſſes. Mr. Willis has printed a letter from the corporation to their repreſentatives, 1603, deſiring them to obtain of king James I. a confirmation of their antient liberties [h]. They were confirmed 31 Car. II. at the inſtance of Thomas Oſborn duke of Leeds.

The arms of the borough are . . . . . a caſtle embattled; in the middle, a tower embattled between 2 ports; all maſoned and proper: over the tower, and 2 ports, 3 plumes of feathers G. On each ſide of the tower, C. C. i. e. Corfe-Caſtle.

The caſtle ſtands a little N. of the town, oppoſite to the church, on a very ſteep rocky hill, mingled with hard rubble chalk-ſtone, in the opening of thoſe ranges of hills that incloſe the E. part of the iſland. Its ſituation between the ends of theſe hills deprives it of much of its natural and artificial ſtrength, being ſo commanded by them, that they overlook the tops of the higheſt towers; yet its ſtructure is ſo ſtrong, the aſcent of the hill on all ſides except on the S. ſo ſteep, and the walls ſo maſſy and thick, that it muſt have been one of the moſt impregnable fortreſſes in the kingdom, before the invention of artillery. It was of great importance in reſpect of its command over the whole iſland; whence our Saxon anceſtors juſtly ſtiled it *Còrf-gate* [i], as being the paſs and avenue into the beſt part of the iſland. It is about half a mile in circumference, and its form oval [k]. The foundation of it is not mentioned in any of our hiſtories; though ſome circumſtances will juſtify at leaſt a conjecture that it was built by king Edgar. For by an inquiſition [l] taken 54 H. III. concerning the abbeſs of Shaſton's claim to wrecks in her adjacent manor of Kingſton, *Juratores dicunt quod ante fundationem caſtri de Corfe, abbatiſſa & moniales S. Edwardi de Shaſton, ſemper habuerunt wrecum maris quod evenire conſueverit in manerio ſuo de Kingeſton,*

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[h] Notit. Parl. vol. II. p. 498.

[i] Dunelmenſis and Hoveden, miſtaking the Saxon Coꞃꝼeꞅᵹeaꞇe, which is no more than the *gate* of *Corſe-caſtle*, have made Corves-geate in one word the proper name of the place; whereas in the Saxon, as well as later times, it was Corſe. Polydore Vergil latiniſes it *Corphis*.

[k] Camden, Britan. Dorſ. Additions.

[l] Eſc. apud Dodſworth, vol. XL. N° 4182.

ſine contradictione. Now that nunnery was founded or rebuilt A. D. 887, not 941, as Mr. Etterick ſays. It is probable that the Daniſh wars, and the ſhort reigns of ſome ſucceeding princes, would not allow time for ſo great a work. But Edgar enjoyed more peace than almoſt any of his predeceſſors, was ſuperior in wealth and power, and a great builder; for he founded or repaired 47 monaſteries, and no doubt ſome civil and military buildings. He then was probably the founder of this magnificent ſtructure. Mr. Aubrey, in his Monumenta Britannica, ſays, he was informed that mention was made of Corfe-Caſtle in the reign of king Alfred; and that Dr. Thomas Gale ſaid it was built by king Edgar, who ſent for workmen out of Italy. This will account for the ſtile of building in the N. W. angle of the ſecond ward[m].

The ſtatelineſs and ſtrength of this fortreſs rendered it, in former times, of great importance; and it had great privileges conferred on it. It was ſometimes the reſidence of the Weſt-Saxon princes, when they came into the iſland to hunt. Here king John kept the regalia of the crown. It was alſo the place of confinement for perſons of the higheſt rank, particularly of king Edward II. On the treaty between Henry III. and his barons, after the battle of Leiceſter, purſuant to the proviſions of Oxford[n], this was the third caſtle on the liſt of thoſe that the victorious barons required to be delivered up to them; and they kept it five years. The cuſtody of it was always intruſted to the chief favourites or relations of our princes.

It is ſeparated from the town by a very deep ditch, now dry; but water might formerly have been brought into it. Over this is a ſtately bridge, of four very high, narrow, round arches. The higheſt, or centre arch, is 25 feet; the width of the piers 20 feet by 22. This bridge lands us at the firſt gate. The caſtle is divided into four wards.

First Ward. The outer gate is large, and has a round tower on each ſide, in which, as in all the others, are ſeveral long narrow apertures, for diſcharging arrows or ſmall arms. This gate leads into the firſt ward, in which are eight round towers, including thoſe on each ſide of the gate. On one that fronts the E. are the arms of Marſhall earl of Pembroke; *five fuſils in feſs*. On the W. ſide, near the wall, is a well ſtopped up, and before it the marks of a rampart, deſigned to cover it from all attempts to throw any thing into it from the oppoſite hill. This ward is not ſo ancient as the reſt, nor are the walls ſo ſtrong. It was probably the addition of a later age, as an out-work to the principal part. Here the inhabitants ſhew the rooms where the ſmiths, plumbers, and other artificers wrought, which, with other particulars were tranſmitted down, by ſeveral ancient people, living about 1710, and employed in the ſiege or demolition. The area of this ward riſes towards the N. and at the foot of the hill is a ditch drawn acroſs it, much ſhallower than the former, with a ſmall bridge over it, leading into the upper wards.

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[m] Yet, if we believe Brompton, Elfrida's houſe, *in loco qui ab incolis nuncupatur Corph*, ſtood where the caſtle was *ſince* built.

[n] Camden, p. 42. Brady's Append. to Hiſt. of England, p. 117—119.

After paſſing the ſecond bridge of one arch, we enter the SECOND WARD, by a gate in all reſpects like the former. Here moſt probably was the ſpot where the cruel murder of the king was committed. The left ſide of the gate, with the tower, is parted from the wall and the reſt of the gate, having, according to tradition, been undermined, in order to demoliſh it; but, before that could be completed, the props gave way, and this ſide ſlid, near half its height, into the ditch. It is ſurprizing ſo vaſt a piece, ſeveral ton in weight, ſhould ſettle in ſo very perpendicular an attitude. It projects 4 feet 9 inches farther than the other part [o]. The breadth of the ſunk part of the gate is 23 feet 2 inches. Juſt within the gate, on the right-hand, was a flight of ſtairs, which led up to the great, or King's Tower. At the higher end, or point, the hill forms a ſpur, or angle, pointing W. and called The *Dungeon*, as the tower on the extremity of it is named The *Dungeon Tower*, and ſaid to be the place of impriſonment for priſoners of war, or ſuch as had committed offences in the juriſdiction of the town and caſtle. Near this tower is ſhewn a ſtone, projecting out of the wall, in which is cut a deep notch. It is ſaid to have been the place of execution. Next this tower is another called the *Priſon Chapel*. Between theſe is a ſally port. The wall on the W. in this angle ſeems to be the moſt ancient part of the caſtle, and built in a different ſtile from the reſt; the courſes of the ſtone being oblique, in the Roman manner, ſhew that it was built ſo early in the Saxon times, when that mode of building was not quite laid aſide. In this wall are two low doors, even with the ground, perhaps ſally ports. Near them is a ſemicircular door, and two elliptical windows. In this ward are five round towers, including thoſe on each ſide of the gate.

THIRD WARD. This was the principal ward, ſituate on the higheſt part of the hill. In the W. part, on the very top of the hill, ſtood the *great* or the *King's Tower*, which fronts the W. and was 72 feet by 60 ſquare, and about 80 high; the wall 12 feet thick. Two of the battlements are ſtill remaining. It commands the reſt of the caſtle, town, and all the adjacent country, except the two ranges of hills on the E. and W. The W. ſide of the tower is entire, having at the back, a gallery of three high round arches, with two ſtories of ſmall ſquare rooms. The N. ſide of the tower is fallen; and only part of the S. ſides remain, ſome of which are of equal height with that on the W. The vaſt fragments of it, ſeveral yards ſquare, ſhew the ſtrength of the mortar, and cover ſo much of the area, that one cannot form any notion of the buildings that formerly occupied it. This ſeems to have been the ſtate priſon, all the windows that remain being extremely high from the floor, to prevent eſcapes. At the foot of the W. end, the earth is removed from the foundation above two feet, in order to throw it down; but the difficulty and danger of effecting it, ſeems to have obliged the workmen to deſiſt. On the S. and W. ſides, near this tower, was a ſemi-circular platform, over which, in 1586, were five pieces of cannon mounted. A little S. of this tower is a ſmall platform, oppoſite to the church, perhaps made in the laſt ſieges, to anſwer the enemy's battery there. It overlooks the town, and affords a fine proſpect over the S. and W. parts of the iſland. In the E. part of the ward ſtood the *Queen's Tower*, and perhaps St. *Mary's* chapel; but of theſe little remain. Here ſeems to have been the reſidence of the lords of this caſtle; and the remains of the buildings ſhew a more neat and elegant taſte. All this part was built on vaults, for cellars, ſtore-rooms, and magazines.

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[o] The famous tower in Caerphilly Caſtle, Glamorganſhire, ruined by the ſame means, projects 7 feet from its perpendicular. That is only one ſide, whereas this is an intire tower. Two more in the W. ſide of the firſt ward here have been forced intire from their baſis, and overhang the hill.

The FOURTH WARD is the leaſt of all, and lies on the N. ſide of the laſt. In it was a ſmall garden, at the E. end, near which was a ſally port, where the enemy entered when the caſtle was ſurprized; and near it a well, now ſtopped up, into which, tradition ſays, lady Bankes threw a conſiderable quantity of money and plate; but this is not probable, becauſe any communication with it muſt have been cut off.

For this account, imperfect as it is, we are indebted to Ralph Treſwel, ſir Christopher Hatton's ſteward; who, in 1586, drew maps of the Iſle of Purbeck in general, and the town of Corfe-Caſtle, the manors of Studland, and Newton, Langton-Wallis, Eaſtington, and Middleburgh, then ſir Chriſtopher's eſtates; and left us alſo a ground-plot and perſpective view of the caſtle, in which it is much to be wiſhed he had inſerted more particulars, now entirely loſt to us. From theſe maps, now in the hands of John Bankes, eſq. are copied the annexed plan and view.

The firſt mention of this caſtle in our hiſtories, is A. D. 978, as the Saxon annals, (though ſome of our hiſtorians [q] ſay 979, and 981), upon occaſion of the barbarous murder of Edward, king of the Weſt Saxons, ſon of king Edgar, committed here by his mother-in-law, Elfrith, or Elfrida; 15 cal. April, in the middle of Lent:—the fouleſt deed, ſays the Saxon annaliſt, ever committed by the Saxons, ſince they landed in Britain. This tranſaction, and the motives to it, are ſo fully recorded by all our hiſtorians, that I ſhall content myſelf with mentioning a few incidents from Brompton.

"This unfortunate prince, hunting in a large wood near Wareham, when the chace was ended, towards evening [r], recollecting that his brother reſided hard by, reſolved to make him a viſit. Near this wood was Elfrida's houſe where his brother was brought up, in a place called *Corph*, three miles from Wareham, where now a famous caſtle is built. He had loſt his attendants; which Elfrida having notice of, thought it a favourable opportunity to execute her wicked purpoſe; and went to meet him with her wicked retinue;

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[q] Simeon Dunelm. p. 159, Brompton, p. 872, Knighton, p. 2313, inter X Script. Leland's Collect. t. III. p. 187.

[r] Henry Hunt. p. 204.

and in a moſt affable and friendly manner invited him to alight, which he declined, but expreſſed a deſire to ſee his brother. She then called for wine, which he had ſcarce put to his lips, when one of her attendants, who had given the king the kiſs of peace, ſtabbed him in the belly, or, as others ſay, in the back. Knighton and Huntington ſay, Elfrida herſelf gave him both the kiſs and the mortal wound, whilſt he was drinking. Finding himſelf wounded, he rode away; but, fainting with loſs of blood, his foot entangled in the ſtirrup, and he was dragged a conſiderable way, till the horſe ſtopped of his own accord. The ſervants ſent by Elfrida to know the iſſue of her treachery, found the unhappy prince dead, terribly defaced with the flints over which he had been dragged. The queen, to conceal the fact, ordered his body to be lodged in an houſe near, where it was covered with ſuch mean cloaths as were at hand. In this houſe lived a woman who was born blind, and maintained by the queen's alms. At midnight ſhe found her ſight reſtored, and, to her great terror, the houſe filled with light. On this ſpot a church was afterwards built. In the morning the queen, being informed of theſe circumſtances, fearing a diſcovery, ordered her attendants to convey the corpſe ſecretly into a private and marſhy place, where it could not eaſily be found. Others ſay ſhe cauſed it to be thrown into a well. She then, to prevent ſuſpicion, retired to a manſion of hers, called *Bere*, ten miles diſtant. Her own ſon Ethelred expreſſing his grief for his mother's wickedneſs, ſhe beat him ſo ſeverely with wax tapers, for want of ſomething elſe at hand, that he hated them ever after. Others ſay ſhe had beaten Edward with them, in Ethelred's preſence. The year following, the body was found, by the devout ſearch of ſome faithful perſons, by warning from heaven. A pillar of fire, deſcending from above, illuminated the place where it was hid. Some devout people of Wareham brought it to that vill, to the church of St. Mary's, and buried it in a plain manner on the E. ſide, where a wooden church, afterwards built by religious perſons, was to be ſeen in this author's time. The fountain where the body had lain yielded pure and ſweet water, and was called *St. Edward's Fountain*; at which infirm people were daily healed. The news of theſe tranſactions being circulated, Alfer, earl of Mercia, a faithful adherent to the deceaſed king, hearing the body was found, reſolved to remove it to a more ſuitable place; and inviting the biſhops, abbots, and nobility to aſſiſt him, ſent to Wolfrida, abbeſs of Wilton, to come with her nuns to perform the exequies. In that houſe was a ſiſter of king Edward, daughter of king Edgar and Wolfrida, before ſhe became a nun. The company, being joined by a great multitude of the country people, came to Wareham; where the body, on being taken out of the tomb, in which it had lain three years, was found as free from corruption as on the day it was placed in it. Thence it was, the ſame year, carried on a bier to Shaftſbury [s]. Among the concourſe of people, were two poor, lame perſons, who were cured on approaching the bier [t]. Elfrida, ſtruck with remorſe, prepared to follow the proceſſion on horſeback, and aſk pardon for her crime; but her utmoſt efforts could not prevent the horſe from running backwards. She then attempted to go on foot, with no better ſucceſs. Knighton ſays, ſhe tried ſeveral horſes; but not being able to make them go on, or to get forward herſelf, ſhe committed the charge of the buſineſs to Alfer [u]. The royal corpſe was received at Shaſton by the abbeſs, and entombed on the N. ſide of the principal altar, 12 cal. March." Elfrida's ambition to raiſe her own ſon to the throne, urged her to commit this execrable murder; and in order to expiate it and others, ſhe had recourſe to the general remedy of that age for an uneaſy conſcience, founding and endowing two nunneries, at Ambreſbury in Wiltſhire, and Whorwel in Hampſhire; in which laſt ſhe took the habit, and ſpent the remaining part of her life in great auſterity and ſuperſtitious dread, and was buried there. The manner of this prince's death, and the affection of the monks, whom he much favoured, gained him the ſurname of *Martyr*. On his canonization, three feſtivals were appointed to be kept to his memory; March 18, the day of his murder, on which his name ſtands in the Roman Martyrology; and Feb. 18, and June 20, the ſecond removals of his corpſe.

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[s] A. D. 980. Sax. Chron. Brompton.

[t] Thorne's Chronicle.

5 Steph. earl Baldwyn de Redvers, with a body of Normans, ſeized on this caſtle, which was delivered to him by the governour. The king attempted to retake it, but without ſucceſs.

William de Braoſe, oppoſing king John, was obliged to fly into France; but his wife, Maud de Waleric, and William his ſon, were ſeized, and kept priſoners here, where they both died [x]. 4 John, prince Arthur, being defeated in a battle at Mirabel, was, with Eleanor his ſiſter, and 200 knights, made priſoners. Eleanor was confined 40 years in Briſtol caſtle; and 22 of the nobility of Anjou and Poictou were impriſoned and ſtarved to death here [y]. 15 John, the king iſſued a writ, dated here 27 June, to deliver 200,000 marks, in the cuſtody of the maſter of the Temple, to William, earl of Sarum, &c. [z] 16 John, Monday craſt. Paſch. the king by writ, dated at Corfe, April 28, acknowledges to have received the Scotch hoſtages of William Harcourt, who had them in keeping [a]. The ſame year he put ſtrong garriſons into Corfe and Wareham, &c. prince Lewis having taken Wincheſter, and become maſter of all the country between that and Corfe. 17 John, the king took Rocheſter caſtle; in which were William de Albini, whom the barons had made governour, Odonel his ſon, William de Lancaſter, William de Emesford, Thomas de Muleton, Oſbert Gifford, and William de Abrincis, or Avrenches, who were delivered to Peter de Mauley, who ſent them cloſe priſoners hither [b]. 18 John, the king, this ſummer, was marching with amazing celerity to Briſtol, Wells, Sherborne, Bere, Wareham, Corfe, &c. to put them in a poſture of defence [c].

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[u] Knighton ſays, Alfer died a miſerable death the following year, being devoured by lice and worms.

[x] Dugd. Baron. vol. I. p. 416, & auctores ibi citati.

[y] Matt. Paris, A. D. 1213, Annal. Margan, p. 13.

[z] Rymer's Fœd. t. I. p. 173.

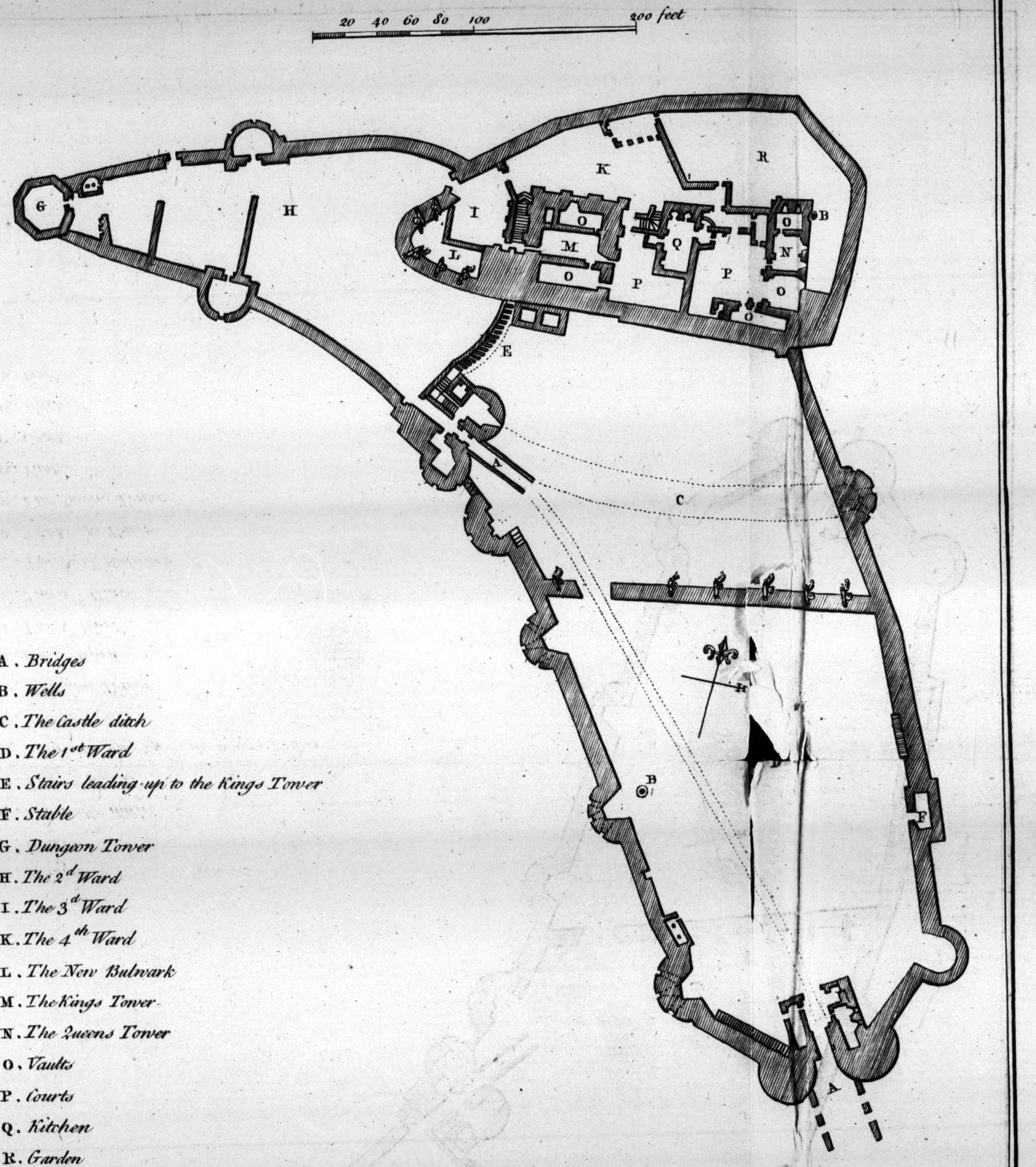
[a] Ibid. p. 184.

[b] Matth. Paris, A. D. 1215, p. 270. Trivet. Ann. p. 163. Dugd. Baron. t. I. p. 114, 115, 468, 567. Rot. Clauſ. m. 14.

[c] Matth. Paris, p. 283.

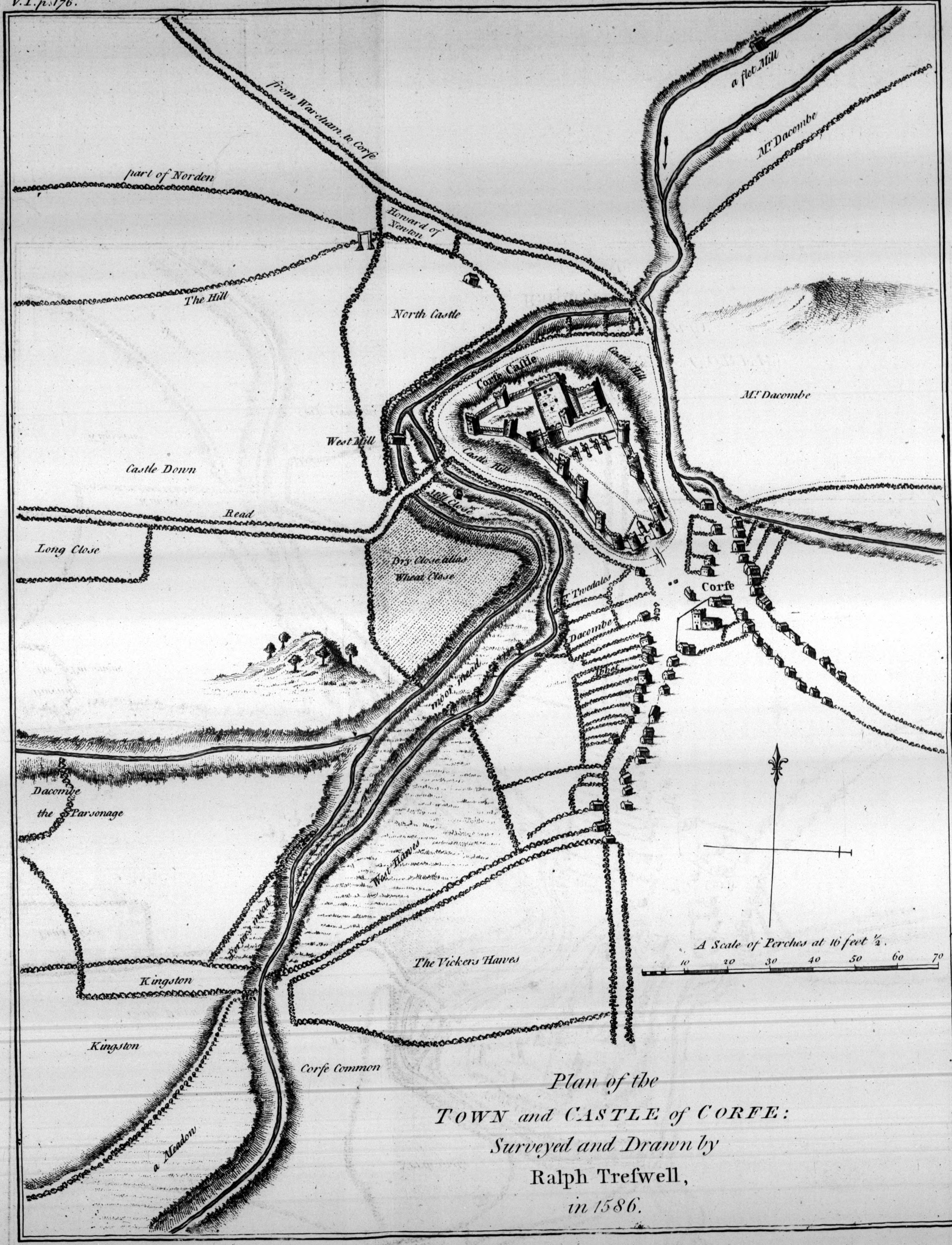
Peter

Plan of
CORFE CASTLE,
Surveyed and Drawn by
Ralph Treswell,
in 1586.



- A. Bridges
- B. Wells
- C. The Castle ditch
- D. The 1st Ward
- E. Stairs leading up to the Kings Tower
- F. Stable
- G. Dungeon Tower
- H. The 2d Ward
- I. The 3d Ward
- K. The 4th Ward
- L. The New Bulwark
- M. The Kings Tower
- N. The Queens Tower
- O. Vaults
- P. Courts
- Q. Kitchen
- R. Garden

V. I. p. 176.



Plan of the
TOWN and CASTLE of CORFE:
Surveyed and Drawn by
Ralph Tresfwell,
in 1586.

Peter de Mauley was ſummoned, 4 H. III. to the coronation of that prince, and to bring with him the regalia, then in his cuſtody in this caſtle, wherewith he had been entruſted by king John. 5 H. III. he delivered up this caſtle to the king, with Alianor, the king's kinſwoman, and Iſabel, ſiſter to the king of Scots; with all the jewels, military engines, and ammunition therein, which king John had formerly committed to his truſt [d]. 14 H. III. Peter de Mauley ſeized on this caſtle, and that of Sherborne, with the cuſtody of the counties of Dorſet and Somerſet, and the foreſts, and detained them in his hands, as other great men uſurped the king's caſtles and demeſnes [e]. 47 H. III. Henry, ſon of Richard duke of Cornwall, and king of the Romans, on leaving the barons' party, received 100 marks, out of the iſſues of the county, from the ſheriff, by the king's precept to Philip Baſſet, to fortify this caſtle, and that of Sherborn [f].

6 E. I. Alianor, only daughter of Simon Montfort, earl of Leiceſter, was conducted over from France, by Almaric her brother, to be married to Lewellyn, prince of Wales: they were both taken near Scilly, and brought to the king, who placed the lady with the queen, and ſent Almaric to be ſecured here, and afterwards to Sherborne-caſtle [g]. 34 E. I. Walter de Morreve, or Murray, one of Robert Bruce's followers, and William de Morreve of Sanford, were impriſoned here [h].

15 E. II. the king, by writ, to John Latimer, conſtable, or his lieutenant, orders him to furniſh the caſtle with victuals, &c. out of the iſſues of his bailywick, under great penalties, and to certify to the treaſurer and barons of the exchequer what he ſhould lay out [i].

19 E. II. by an inquiſition taken at Corfe [k], directed to ſeveral perſons, ſhewing, that the king had committed to John Peche the cuſtody of this caſtle, and the warren of Purbeck, during pleaſure, in the ſame manner as others had held it; and willing to know the ſtate of both, heretofore and now, aſſigns two of them to ſuperviſe the caſtle and warren, and enquire on oath concerning the truth of the premiſes.

William de Chaldecote, John de Clavile, William Scovile, William de Whyteclyve, John de Smedemore, and two more not of any note, jurors, ſay, that the *King's Hall* in the caſtle is decayed [*deceſa*], to the damage of 100 marks, viz. part in the time of Simon de Monteacute, cuſtos, to the value of 10 marks; in the time of H. de Laci, earl of Lincoln, 70 marks; in the time of Robert Fitzpayne 20 marks. The tower called *Cocayngue* was damaged [*deterioratur*] in the time of Roger Damory 100 s. The chapel of *St. Mary*, within the third gate, and the gate itſelf, was damaged in the time of H. de Laci, earl of Lincoln, 40 l. The *Long Hall* was decayed, in the time of the ſaid earl, to the damage of 80 marks. The chamber called the *Parlour*, and the *Porchea*, or chamber of the queen, in the time of the ſaid earl, 20 l. The other tower, with the chambers and garderobe in it, to the value of 100 l. viz. in the time of Simon de Monteacute 100 s.; in the time of the earl of Lincoln 40 l.; in the time of R. Fitzpayne 30 l.; in the time of Richard Lovel 100 s.; in the time of R. Damory 100 s. The great outer gate and bridge before it were damaged in the time of the earl of Lincoln 200 l. The caſements [*oſtia feneſtrarum*], with the irons of the windows and lead in divers places, carried away to the damage of 20 l.; viz. in the time of S. Monteacute 40 s.; in the time of the earl of Lincoln 10 l.; in the time of R. Fitzpaine 60 s.; in the time of Richard Lovel 20 s.; in the time of Roger Damory 4 l. That the warren is well kept, and they knew of no tranſgreſſion done there; that in the caſtle was no arms or victuals. Total of damages, 510 l.

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[d] Dugd. Baron. t. I. 734. [e] Trivet. Annal. p. 174, 175. [f] Rot. Clauſ. m. 15. Dugd. Baron. t. I. 765. [g] Dugd. Baron. t. I. p. 760. [h] Rymer's Fœd. t. I. p. 1012, 1013. [i] Madox's Hiſt. Excheq. c. x. § 12, p. 263. Rot. 88. [k] Inq. n. 185.

That unfortunate prince, Edw. II. was thus preparing a place of confinement for himſelf; for ſoon after, Mortimer thought fit to ſecure his royal priſoner in it. As a full account of his great ſufferings is given in our annals, to them I refer my reader; only obſerving, that he was taken 1326, Nov. 14; and 20 Jan. ſent priſoner to Kenelworth caſtle. After having reſigned his crown, he was depoſed in parliament; and, 3 April, 1327, removed to Berkley caſtle, where he was received by a particular indenture from the earl of Lancaſter, to Sir John Matravers ſenior, and Sir John Gurney. They had an extraordinary commiſſion, by which they and their attendants were impowered to enter any place of ſtrength in the kingdom, and command in it during pleaſure. The better to conceal his perſon, they conducted him in the night, by unfrequented roads, acroſs the country from thence to this caſtle. How long he remained here, is not known; but they ſoon removed him to Briſtol, and thence again to Berkley caſtle, where he was barbarouſly murdered Sept. 21, 1327, after a reign of twenty-one years; and, like other unhappy princes before and after him, ſadly experienced the truth of that maxim, That there is but a little interval between the priſons and the graves of ſovereigns.

King H. VII. repaired this caſtle for the reſidence of his mother, the counteſs of Richmond; and 2000 l. was granted by parliament for that purpoſe; but ſhe ſeems never to have reſided here. It was repaired, when almoſt overcome by time, by ſir Chriſtopher Hatton [l]; and no doubt by ſir J. Bankes.

CUSTODES, GOVERNORS OR CONSTABLES.

From Dugdale's Baronage; his MS. in the Muſeum, N° 6512; and from the Patent, Cloſe, and Fine Rolls.

In the reign of Henry III. this caſtle, and that of Sherborne, were ſometimes committed to the ſheriff of the counties of Dorſet and Somerſet [m].

6 John, William de Blundevil.
6 ——— Galfrid de Nevil, to whom it was delivered Oct. 3.

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[l] Coker, p. 53.

17 ——— Peter de Mauley, or de Malo Lacu.
.. H. III. Luke Tanny, *anno incerto*.
4 ——— Peter de Mauley.
5 ——— John Ruſſel.
8 ——— the biſhop of Bath.
14 ——— Peter de Mauley
22 ——— Richard de Langeford, ſheriff.
25 ——— Hugh de Vivon.
33 ——— Peter Genevil.
33 ——— being late in the cuſtody of H. Vivon, Will. de Fortibus had orders to deliver it to Barth. Peche.

35
36 ——— Elias Rabayne, ſheriff.
39

42 ——— Stephen Langſpe.
45 ——— Philip Baſſet.
45 ——— Matthew de Mara.
46 ——— Philip Baſſet, ſheriff.
47 ——— Nicholas de Moeles of Cadbury.
47 ——— Peter de Montefort.
.. ——— Nicholas de Molis.
48 ——— Henry Plantagenet.
53 ——— Roger Mortimer.
54 ——— Alan de Plugenet.
56 ——— E. de Rabayne.
3, 4 Ed. I. E. de Rabayne.
7 ——— Richard de Boſco.
8 ——— John de Cormailes, ſheriff.
.. ——— Richard de Boſco.
10 ——— the king committed the caſtle to Richard de Boſco during pleaſure, and to anſwer at the exchequer for the iſſues, as E. de Rabayne had uſed; alſo for the iſſues of the warren of Corf, and the land which Robert de Martegros held there, which R. de Boſco bought, for the king's uſe, for 21 marks, out of 24 marks which the king's men of Bridport uſed to pay at the exchequer for the vill, for the ſuſtenance of the ſaid Richard, for the cuſtody of the caſtle, as long as he had it, and to anſwer yearly at the exchequer for the reſidue of the 24 marks during the ſaid term.
.. Ed. I. Will. Monteacute, *anno incerto*.
27 ——— Simon Monteacute.
29 ——— Henry de Laci, earl of Lincoln.
33 ——— Robert Fitzpain.
34 ——— Will. Monteacute.
8 Ed. II. Philip Walweyne.

9 ———

9———Richard Lovel, and Muriel, his wife.
11———ditto, with the foreſt of Purbeck.
14———John de Ryſler.
15———John de Latimer, with the chace of Corf.
18 }
19 } ———John Peche.
. . . . . Sir John Deverel, *anno incerto*. E. II. or III. 4 E. III. he was ſeized and executed with Mortimer.
3 Ed. III. John Matravers.
4———Will. de Monteacute, together with the chace of Purbeck.
13———Thomas Cary.
15———Rad. de Ufford.
18———Philip de Weſton.
49———John Elmerug.

When lord chief juſtice Bankes was gone to the king at York, in Eaſter term, 1642, his lady, with her children and family, retired hither, and remained in peace till May, 1643; when the rebels, commanded by ſir Walter Erle and ſir Thomas Trenchard, having poſſeſſed themſelves of all the towns on the ſea-coaſt, reſolved to make themſelves maſters of this caſtle. On May-day the Mayor, barons, and gentlemen of the iſland, had been accuſtomed to courſe a ſtag; when ſome troops of horſe from Dorcheſter, &c. came into the iſland, to ſurprize the gentlemen and caſtle. On this, the hunters diſperſed, and lady Bankes ordered the caſtle gates to be ſhut. Some of them came to the caſtle, under pretence of ſeeing it, but were denied entrance. She, perceiving their deſign, called in a guard. The committee of Pool, ſuſpecting her of an intention to victual and man the caſtle, demanded four ſmall pieces of cannon; but, on her requeſt that they might remain for her defence, and cauſing them to take off the carriages, it was allowed. A few days after, forty ſeamen came to demand them, by virtue of a warrant of the commiſſioners; but lady Bankes, aſſiſted by five men only, and her maid ſervants, mounted them, and diſcharging one of them, they all fled. She then ſummoned help by beat of drum, and a conſiderable guard of her tenants and friends came to her aſſiſtance, and fifty arms were brought in from the iſland. This guard continued a week, during which time letters were ſent in, threatening, that, if the cannon were not delivered, greater force would be uſed, and the houſes of her friends and neighbours would be fired. Two hundred weight of powder was intercepted; and proclamation was made at Wareham, that no proviſions ſhould be ſold for her uſe. Strict watch was kept, that no meſſenger or intelligence ſhould paſs into or out of the caſtle. Being thus diſtreſſed, (all means of victualling the caſtle taken away) and ſlenderly provided with ammunition or victuals for a ſiege, they came to a treaty, to deliver up the four pieces, the biggeſt of which was but a three pounder, on condition ſhe ſhould enjoy peace and quietneſs. But ſhe, not depending on this, took every opportunity to ſtrengthen herſelf by the very means whereby the world thought ſhe had weakened herſelf. For the rebels, now looking on themſelves as ſure, grew remiſs in their watches, and negligent in intercepting ſupplies. She made good uſe of this, and furniſhed herſelf with proviſions, one hundred weight and a half of powder, and match proportionable; and, on the advance of the king's forces under prince Maurice and the marquis of Hertford to Blandford, ſhe repreſented the condition and conſequence of the place, and want of a commander. Captain Laurence, ſon of ſir Edward Laurence, was ſent to command; but he, coming without a commiſſion, could not order proviſions and money till it was too late: there was alſo one captain Bond, an old ſoldier in the caſtle. The firſt time the rebels came before it, they brought a body of between two and three hundred horſe and foot, and two pieces of ordnance, which, from the hills, played on the caſtle, fired four houſes in the town, and ſummoned the caſtle, but, receiving a denial, left it.

June 23, 1643, ſir Walter Erle, captain Sydenham, captain Henry Jarvis, captain Skutt of Pool, with a body of five or ſix hundred, taking the opportunity of a miſty morning, poſſeſſed themſelves of the town. They brought a demy-cannon, a culverin, and two ſakers. With theſe, and their ſmall arms, they played on the caſtle from all quarters. They obliged the ſoldiers by oath to give no quarter in caſe of a reſiſtance, and endeavoured, by all means, to corrupt the defendants. To make their approaches to the walls with more ſafety, they made two engines, one called the *Boar*, the other the *Sow*, of boards, lined with wool, to deaden the ſhot. When the ſow moved forwards, the beſieged aiming their ſhot at their legs, which were not covered, nine ran away, and one was killed out of eleven. The boar durſt not advance. The principal battery was from the church, which was their rampart and rendezvous. The ſurplice was made into two ſhirts. They broke the organ, and made the pipes ſerve for caſes to hold powder and ſhot. They cut off the lead of the church, rolled it up, and ſhot it. Sir Walter Erle and the commanders earneſtly preſſed on the ſoldiers; but, prodigal as they were of their blood, they were ſparing enough of their own. Sir Walter never willingly expoſed himſelf; and, being once endangered by a ſhot through the coat, put on a bear's ſkin; and, for fear of the muſket-ſhot, (for the beſieged had no other) he was ſeen to creep on all four on the ſide of the hill. This cowardice of the aſſailants added courage and reſolution to the defendants. They once ſallied to brave the rebels, rather than compelled by want, and brought in eight cows and a bull. Another time five boys fetched in four cows.

Having ſpent much time and ammunition with little ſucceſs, the earl of Warwick ſent them 150 mariners, and ſeveral cartloads of petards, granadoes, &c. for an aſſault. They offered 20 l. to the firſt man that ſhould ſcale the wall, and ſo by deſcending ſums to the twentieth man; but, as this order had no effect, they made them drunk with ſtrong waters. Sir Walter, for fear he ſhould be valiant againſt his will, was the only man who came ſober to the aſſault. Thus armed with drink, they ſtorm the caſtle on all ſides, and apply the ſcaling ladders; and it was ordered by their leaders, that when twenty were entered, they ſhould give a watch-word to the reſt, which was *Old Wat*; an ominous word, as it proved. They divided their forces into two parties; one aſſaulted the middle ward, defended by captain Laurence and the greateſt part of the garriſon; the other aſſaulted the upper ward, which lady Bankes, her daughters, women, and five ſoldiers defended, and, to her eternal honour, as bravely performed it. For, by heaving over ſtones and hot embers, they repulſed the rebels, and kept them from climbing the ladders, to throw in wild fire, which they had ready in their hands. They had killed and wounded in the ſiege and aſſault 100 men.

Sir Walter, hearing the king's forces under the earl of Caernarvon were advancing, retired to London in great haſte, and left Sydenham to bring off the ordnance, ammunition, and remainder of the ſoldiers, who retired into the church, intending to march off in the night; but, as ſupper was ſet on the table, an alarm was given, that the king's forces were near. On this he left his ſupper, artillery, and ammunition, and took boat for Pool, leaving 100 horſes on the ſhore, which the beſieged next day made their prize[m]. Thus, after ſix weeks ſtrict ſiege, this caſtle, the key of thoſe parts, was, by the reſolution of that honourable lady, and the valour of captain Laurence, and about eighty ſoldiers, with the loſs only of two men, delivered 4 Aug. 1643.

The account given of this ſiege in the Mercurius Aulicus is that July 20, 1643, intelligence came that ſir Walter Erle had beſieged the caſtle a ſecond time, and battered it with ordnance, two whereof were thirty-ſix pounders; but captain Robert Laurence made a brave reſiſtance, having already beat the rebels off in the firſt ſiege, though he had not 100 men in the caſtle, nor any ordnance. In revenge, Sir Walter ſent a party to ſir Edward Laurence's houſe, which he plundered ſo, that he left only the walls ſtanding, forcing his lady into the woods to ſave her life. Aug. 5, captain Laurence, at the laſt aſſault, ſo well received them, that ſixty were killed in the place; the reſt and their leaders ran away.

In Bury the county treaſurer's account, are ſome particulars relating to the foregoing tranſactions.

	l.	s.	d.
June 14, 1643, paid for loading and unloading great guns brought from Portſmouth to Corfe-caſtle.			
June 18, paid ten ſoldiers for making works againſt the caſtle.			
June 26, guns brought againſt the caſtle.			
July 7, for boards, hair, and wool, for making a *ſow* againſt the caſtle,	2	3	4
July 12, for three truckle wheels for the ſow,	0	6	0
July 10, for 74 boards and 120 feet of oaken plank employed in the ſiege,	7	4	4
July 24, to 20 ſoldiers for planting the ordnance,	1	0	0
July 28, for powder, match, and bullets, for the gunners,	268	12	3
Aug. 2, for a firkin of hot waters for the ſoldiers when they ſcaled the caſtle,	1	12	0

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[m] See Lord Clarendon's Hiſt. II. 335.

Thus,

This caſtle had the honour of being one of the laſt places in England that held out for the king. We have but a very imperfect account when the laſt ſiege commenced, and how it was carried on. It ſeems more properly to have been a blockade. June 20, 1645, captain Butler marched from Wareham with a party of horſe and foot; the horſe faced the caſtle; the foot entered the town, beat the garriſon into the caſtle, and kept them in play, whilſt the horſe brought away from the walls 160 cattle and horſes to Wareham [n]. After the blockade of Exeter was formed, Oct. 28, 1645, the conqueſt of the weſt was almoſt completed; and there was ſcarce any other garriſon left for the king between Exeter and London but this, which was blocked up by colonel Bingham, governor of Pool, with his own and Pickering's regiments [o]. Afterwards Rainsborough's regiment was here. Dec. 16, 1645, Fairfax ſent a regiment of horſe and two of foot to take Corf [p]. Dec. 22, in Bury the treaſurer's accounts, two troops are mentioned to be drawn to Corf [u]. Dec. 25, Rainsborough's regiment was ordered hence to Abingdon, to reſtrain the incurſions of the king's forces from Oxford. Jan. 29, the king's horſe from Oxford lay near this place. Feb. 7, the party of the king's forces that took Wareham marched to relieve Corf, and carried colonel Butler, the governor of Wareham, two committee men, and other priſoners with them; and made a ſafe retreat [q]. When Wareham was regained, the king's horſe eſcaped thence by favour of the night, through the guards, into the caſtle. Butler afterwards eſcaped hence, with colonel Laurence, who came over to the parliament [r].

Lieutenant colonel Pitman, an officer in the garriſon, had ſerved under the earl of Inchequin in Ireland, and, being weary of the king's ſervice, let the enemy know, that if he might have a protection, he would deliver the place to the parliament; which offer was accepted [s]. On this, he propoſed to colonel Anketil, the governor, that he would fetch 100 men out of Somerſetſhire to reinforce the garriſon, and would get leave of the enemy's commander, under pretence of procuring an exchange for his brother, then priſoner in the parliament quarters, for one of the enemy's officers who was priſoner in the caſtle. This being approved of, he concerted meaſures with colonel Bingham, who commanded the ſiege, that, under this pretence, he ſhould convey above 100 men into the caſtle; and, as ſoon as they were entered, the beſiegers were to make an attack. One hundred men were accordingly drawn out of Weymouth garriſon, and marching to Lullworth caſtle, were joined by thirty or forty more. Pitman led them in the night to the port agreed upon for their entrance, where colonel Anketil was ready to receive them. Some of them were in diſguiſe and knew every part of the caſtle. When fifty were entered, the governor, ſeeing more behind, ordered the port to be ſhut, ſaying there were as many as he could diſpoſe of. Pitman expoſtulated with him for uſing him ill, by cauſing him to bring

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[m] Vicars's Parliament. Chron. P. IV. p. 175. [n] Sprigge, Anglia Rediviva, P. III. p. 146, 161, 181. [o] Whitlock's Mem. 190. [p] Sprigge, ut ſupra. [q] Microchronicon. [r] Whitlock, 198. [s] Vicars, P. IV. p. 372, 373. Whitlock, 200, 201.

men ſo far, at the hazard of their lives, and expoſe them to the cold and the enemy. Thoſe who entered poſſeſſed themſelves of the King's and Queen's Towers and the two platforms, expecting when the beſiegers would make an aſſault, it being then two hours after midnight. The beſieged, in the mean time, fired and threw down great ſtones upon them, but they maintained their poſt; and when it was day, the enemy, ſeeing their friends on the towers and platforms, began to advance, and the beſieged, finding they were betrayed, demanded a parley; and it was agreed, that all their lives ſhould be ſpared, and that thoſe who were of the town ſhould return quietly to their houſes. On which two came over the wall by a ladder, which the reſt ſeeing, fired and broke quarter. At laſt all, to the number of 140, became priſoners at diſcretion, their lives excepted. Here was found ſtore of victuals and plunder, ſeventeen barrels of powder, with match, &c. Thirty parliament priſoners were releaſed. The enemy loſt but one man in the action. Tradition ſays, that they ſhut the greateſt part of the garriſon into the lower ward, where they happened to be, and that but ſix were left in the upper part of the caſtle. Only two of the garriſon were ſlain.

In Sprigg's table of battles and ſieges this ſiege is ſaid to have laſted forty-eight days, during which eleven men were ſlain, and five ordnance taken. The caſtle was taken, according to the Microchronicon, Feb. 26, 1645. Mr. Dennis Bond, who was born near this place, in his Chronology, ſays, Feb. 27. Perhaps it was entered the 26th before midnight, but not delivered up till next morning. A vote paſſed in the houſe of commons, March 4, 1645[t], to ſlight Corfe.

The rebels, being poſſeſſed of it, plundered it, undermined and blew up with gunpowder the walls and towers. The lead and timber were converted by ſome of their leaders to their private uſe. Captain Hughes, governor of Lullworth caſtle, employed in the demolition, charges in his accounts the receipt of the following ſums borrowed for that purpoſe:

	l.	s.	d.
1646, Oct. 30,	20	0	0
Nov. 4,	40	0	0
Jan. 26,	26	5	0
1647, April 29,	55	8	8
More in wood out of Grange-farm,	26	13	4

He alſo charges in his diſburſements, as governor of Lullworth-caſtle, for taking down the materials of the caſtle, by agreement with the committee of the county, 200 l.

Thus this ancient and magnificent fabric was reduced to an heap of ruins, and remains a laſting monument of the dreadful effects of anarchy and rebellion and the rage of civil war. The ruins are large, and allowed to be the nobleſt and grandeſt in the kingdom, conſidering the extent of the ground on which they ſtand. Their high ſituation makes them viſible at a great diſtance. The vaſt fragments of the King's Tower, the round towers leaning as if ready to fall, the broken walls and vaſt pieces of them tumbled down into the vale below, form ſuch a ſcene of havock and deſolation as ſtrike every curious ſpectator with horror and concern. The plenty of ſtone in the neighbourhood, and the excellency of the cement, harder to be broken than the ſtones themſelves, have preſerved theſe prodigious ruins from being embezzled and leſſened.

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[t] Whitlock, Mem. 301.

The church of Corfe is dedicated to St. Edward the Martyr, and has ſeveral lancet windows, and in the porch Saxon pillars. The rebels battered the caſtle from the church, which received great damage from thence: at the ſame time all the monumental braſſes were taken away; ſo that here are no epitaphs older than the end of the laſt century.

Near the N. entrance into the town is an old houſe, now belonging to Mr. Banks, once the reſidence of a branch of the family of the *Uvedales* of More-Crichel. In a window of a room that fronts the ſtreet, are the arms of Uvedale, Arg. a croſs ſarcele, with a creſcent for difference. In a S. window of a chamber over it, are the queen's arms in the garter and crown, and under them E. R. In the E. window, H. U. *Henry Uvedale*; I. V. *John Uvedale*, 1575. In another part, on a torſe or wreath, a ſtag at gaze O. In another, the arms of the town.

St. *Edward's*, or *King* Bridge, lies N. E. of the caſtle, juſt at the foot of it. It had two ribbed arches, and a rude eſcotcheon, on which were two bars, and a plume of feathers for a creſt: under it, 1564, B. G. It was taken down and rebuilt when the turnpike road was made. It is ſaid to take its name from king Edward, who, according to tradition, was found here fallen dead from his horſe. But Brompton ſays, his body was found where the church, which is dedicated to him, was afterwards built; a further proof that the town of Corfe is poſterior to the Saxon, and perhaps to the Norman, times.

Near the lime-kiln, and St. Edward's Bridge, on digging chalk, 1753, was found, at the depth of ſeven or eight feet, an urn, containing five gallons, full of burnt bones; the mouth downwards. The earth round it ſeemed made ground.

In the quarries, S. of the town, are ſometimes found human bones, between two ſtones, ſet edgways, and covered with another, like the Britiſh kiſtvaens.

On the top of the hill near Aylwood, called *Nine Barrow Down*, is a groupe of tumuli. Ten of them are large and high, and in a line. Moſt of them are campaniform, and very neatly turned. Some of them are tumps of no conſiderable convexity, and of various diameters. Round moſt of them is a ſhallow trench; and near them an hollow, or cavity, perhaps a place to ſacrifice in. There are in all 16, ſome of which lie on the S. ſide of the others. From hence is a very extenſive proſpect over the iſland, Pool, Studland, and Swanwich bay.

But the moſt extraordinary barrow in this county is *Aggleſtone*, vulgarly called *The Devil's Night-Cap*, ſtanding among many others on Studland common.

mon. It occupies above half an acre of ground, and is 60 feet in diameter at top, and 90 feet perpendicular, with a ſlope of 300 feet. Traces of a ditch appear at bottom. In a concavity on the top ſtands a vaſt red ſandy ſtone, which probably gave name to it, ſhaped like an inverted pyramid, 60 feet in circumference at bottom, and near 90 at the top, ſuppoſed to contain 400 ton: the ſurface weather-worn and flakey, and a large cleft in the middle from E. to W. and on the top three cavities, which, if we ſuppoſe this a Druidical monument, may have been rock-baſons. A ditch ſurrounds this ſtone, and below it are ſeveral ſmaller ſtones. N. of this is another barrow, called *Puckſtone*, with a ſtone ten feet by eight on it. This prodigious maſs, whether raiſed to its preſent ſtation by art, or chiſelled into a ſhape, after removal of the earth about it, may have been a memorial or ſepulcre of ſome captain loſt in the famous wreck of the Daniſh fleet, A. D. 877, at *Peverel Point*, near Swanwich, about three miles from hence[u].

At *Steeple*, in this iſland, is the elegant ſeat of John Bond, eſq. agreably incloſed with planting and water, in the midſt of a dreary heath. At St. *Aldhelm's*, on the ſea-ſide, among cliffs 147 feet perpendicular, is an ancient chantry-chapel of St. Aldhelm, built of ſtone, ſupported by a ſingle pillar, and having one window on the S. ſide.

At the entrance into the Iſle of Purbeck, ſtands WAREHAM, a town of note in the Saxon and Daniſh times, ſurrounded by conſiderable earth-works or walls, ſuppoſed to have been thrown up by the Danes, A. D. 876. Much of its trade is transferred to Pool, but it has greatly recovered itſelf ſince its dreadful fire, 1762. Near Stoborough, a hamlet to this town, in the Iſle of Purbeck, was a large barrow, called *Kingbarrow*; in opening which, 1767, to make a road, they found human bones, wrapped up in a deer-ſkin, in a trunk of oak; and with them an oaken cup, three inches wide, and two deep.

Woodbery-Hill, near *Bere*, is a large handſome Roman camp of about ten acres, treble trenched, within which is held one of the greateſt fairs in the Weſt for goods of all kinds, particularly hops, cloth, cheeſe, and horſes. Near the road between Bloxworth and Wareham, on the heath, is *Woolsbarrow*, or *Oldbury*, a little Daniſh camp, ſurrounded with tumuli.

On *Blackdown-Hill* are a number of large pits (one called *Hurlepepper*, or *Culpepper's Diſh*, 60 yards in diameter) in form of an inverted cone, and dry in the wetteſt ſeaſons. Many more are on *Piddleton*-Heath, juſt by. They are ſuppoſed by ſome to have been Druidical, by others marle pits, by others granaries, and by others natural ſinkings of the looſe and porous ſoil.

BLANDFORD is a handſome market-town, much improved ſince the fire, 1731, which almoſt entirely deſtroyed it. Juſt above the town is an odd intrenchment on a hill, with others like foundations of towers, and a barrow near it.

In a cloſe near Blanford, but in Pimpern pariſh, was an extraordinary earth-work, called a *Maze*, compoſed of a number of ſmall ridges and ditches, and covering near an acre of ground, but entirely ploughed up 1730. Near *Damory* houſe grew a prodigious oak, 23 feet diameter, and 68 in circumference, with a cavity 15 feet wide, and 17 feet high.

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[u] Saxon Chron.

MILTON-ABBAS ſcarce deſerves the name of a market-town. It had an abbey founded by king Athelſtan, A. D. 933; on the ſcite of which, in order to preſerve its noble hall, lord Milton is building an elegant modern Gothic manſion. The eaſtern part of the beautiful church was preſerved for the uſe of the pariſh. St. Catharine's chapel, on the hill above, is now a pigeon houſe.

Mr. Pleydell's ſeat at *Milborn St. Andrews*, probably built by ſir George Morton, bart. about the beginning of the laſt century, is a handſome ſtone building, ſurrounded with pleaſant avenues and pieces of water, and much improved, 1729, by the late Mr. Pleydel. This village gave birth to the famous cardinal Morton, archbiſhop of Canterbury in the reign of H. VII.

Lord Ilcheſter's ſeat at *Melbury-Sampford*, rebuilt 1713, was firſt built by ſir Giles Strangeways, in the reign of H. VIII. The E. or principal front is adorned with ſix Corinthian pilaſters, and before it is a large canal. In the N. W. corner is an ancient tower, mentioned by Leland as juſt built in his time. The pariſh-church contains the monuments of the ancient family of Strangeways.

DORCHESTER, the capital of the county, where the aſſizes are held and the knights of the ſhire elected, has an undoubted claim to Roman antiquity, from the name, the many fortifications remaining around and near it, and the coins and other monuments of that people frequently found in it. It made a conſiderable figure under the Saxons; was eminent for its diſaffection to the royal cauſe in the late civil wars; is now a market and borough town, but has no ſtaple trade of any kind, its brewery having declined within theſe fifty years. Some parts of the antient wall remain on the W. S. and E. ſides of the town, together with an exterior double rampart of earth. Two gates of the Franciſcan priory, and alſo the caſtle-hill are ſtill ſubſiſting. About a quarter of a mile S. W. from the town to the S. E. is *Maumbury*, the moſt perfect Roman amphitheatre in Britain. It is raiſed of ſolid chalk upon the level. Its longeſt diameter within is 218 feet, its ſhorteſt 163: greateſt perpendicular height of the rampart 30 feet. A walk eight feet broad gradually aſcends from the ends upon the longeſt diameter to its greateſt elevation in the middle upon the ſhorteſt diameter, where it reaches half way upon the whole ſeries of ſeats. On the top is a terrace twelve feet broad beſides the parapet, outwardly five feet broad and two high. Three ways lead up to this terrace. The cavea, or receptacle for gladiators, beaſts, &c. is ſuppoſed to have been at the upper end under the aſcent to the terrace, there being vaults under that part of the body of the work. The area is raiſed by ploughing, yet is ſtill ten or twelve feet below the level of the field. On the outſide of the upper end is a large regular round tumour beyond the exterior verge, and on the ſhorteſt diameter, near the upper end, are two riſing ſquare plats 15 feet by 20. The terrace is higher within than without. On a hill, in the middle of each ſide, is a cuneus, or parcel of ſeats, near thirty feet broad, over the moſt elevated part of the circular work, reaching up to the terrace. Dr. Stukely computes the are acapable of containing 12690 people. Ten thouſand attended at an execution here 1705.

Maiden-Caſtle, a prodigious fortification, the largeſt in the county, aſcribed to the Romans, but altered by the Saxons, is ſituate on a hill S. W. of Dorcheſter, defended by a treble ditch and rampart, the two inner ones very deep and high. It is of an oval form, with entrances at the eaſt and weſt; the former guarded by ſix ditches and ramparts, the latter by five, the end of all the ramparts lapping over each other. It ſeems to have had a third entrance on the ſouth ſide, near which is a cave. The area is conjectured to be thirty acres, and is divided from N. to S. by a ditch; the weſtern half being for the foot, the eaſtern for the horſe and carriages.

At *Wolveton*, near Dorcheſter, is the antient ſeat of the Trenchards, a reſpectable and extenſive family, formerly connected with the moſt conſiderable in the county, whoſe intermarriages appear by their arms in the windows. This houſe, built by ſir Thomas Trenchard, who died 1505, has its principal fronts to the eaſt and ſouth, and its principal entrance through a gate with round towers, opening into a ſmall court on the eaſt ſide. On the north is a ſmall cloiſter. The windows in the eaſt front are almoſt all different from each other. The north ſide, which is the oldeſt, is ſheltered by a grove of trees. In this houſe John Ruſſel, eſq. of Berwick in this county, being ſent for by his relation, ſir Thomas Trenchard, to entertain Philip, archduke of Auſtria and king of Caſtile, when driven on this coaſt, in his way from Flanders to Spain, 1505, laid the foundation of the honours and fortune of the Bedford family; the archduke recommending him to king Henry VII. whoſe ſon continued his favour to him. Several beautiful whole length portraits of ſaints were lately removed from hence to Mr. Trenchard's houſe at Lichet.

WAYMOUTH, nine miles from Dorcheſter, is an ancient corporation, borough, and market-town, and formerly the moſt conſiderable port in the county, before the increaſe of Pool, and the late wars with France. It has ſtill a convenient tide-harbour, with good anchoring in the road; and is now much reſorted to for ſea-bathing. Its caſtle, called *Sandes-foot*, built by H. VIII. to command the bay, has been neglected ſince the Reſtoration, and is now in ruins.

MELCOMB-REGIS, pleaſantly ſituated on a peninſula oppoſite to Waymouth, much exceeds it in point of pleaſantneſs and convenience. It is a market and borough-town, and had anciently a woollen manufacture. The altar-piece in its church, repreſenting the Laſt Supper, was painted by ſir James Thornhill, who was born here. Some remains of the Dominican priory and its chapel, converted into a malt-houſe, are ſtill to be ſeen.

The iſland, or rather peninſula, of **PORTLAND**, is united to the continent by a ridge of pebbles, thrown up by the ſea, called the *Cheſil*, running near 17 miles. When a ſtrong N. E. wind blows, it cleaves it aſunder, and ſweeps the ſtones off the bottom of black clay, which a S. W. reſtores again. The iſland is a continued bed or rock of free-ſtone, thinly covered with verdure, which feeds plenty of excellent ſheep. It is about four miles long by two broad, and between ſeven and ten in circuit. It has but one village, and a caſtle built by Henry VIII. In a very wet ſeaſon, 1750, a large point of the iſland fell into the ſea, to the great damage of the pier and road. The quarries at the E. end have contributed largely to the public buildings in London ſince the great fire. The good ſtone lies at the depth of about 12 feet, and has in it a great variety of foſſil ſhells. Near the light-houſe in the S. part, is a remarkable cavern or hole in the earth, 50 feet ſquare, and 20 deep, through a narrow mouth of which a S. W. wind raiſes the water like an artificial fountain. In the W. part are two other caverns extending horizontally to a length unaſcertained. The *Race* is a paſſage extremely dangerous in the calmeſt ſeaſons by the meeting of two tides, or ſetting-in of the currents from the French and Engliſh ſhores; which cauſe a perpetual bubbling of water boiling over the foul rocky bottom, and driving ſhips on the W. ſhore of the iſland. But the light-houſes have prevented many accidents.

ABBOTSBURY, a ſmall decaying market-town, is eminent only for the inconſiderable ruins of a monaſtery, founded by Orcus, ſteward of the houſehold to king Canute; and for lord Ilcheſter's noble ſwannery, containing between 6 and 700 ſwans, with a decoy, a little W. of the town. Near half of a large monaſtic barn built of ſtone ſtill remains, and St. Catharine's chapel, a pretty entire building on the top of the hill that overlooks the town. At the end of a ridge of hills, a mile and a half W. of the town, is Abbotsbury-Caſtle, an old fortification nearly ſquare, two ſides double ditched. Such great quantities of mackrel are annually taken on the coaſt from hence to Portland, that 100 are frequently ſold for a penny.

In *Chilcomb* pariſh is the largeſt camp in this part of the county, ſingle trenched, with three ſmall barrows in the centre.

BRIDPORT is a conſiderable market and borough town, ſtill, as formerly, noted for its hemp manufactures, particularly netting.

At *Chidiock*, the antient ſeat of the famous family of Mandeville, or Magnaville, and afterwards of the Chidiocks, is one tower of the gateway of a caſtle, built by ſome of the latter, or their ſucceſſors the Arundels.

Shipton-hill is an immenſe barrow, reſembling at a diſtance the hull of a ſhip reverſed, 749 feet long (which exceeds the length of Silbury by 250 feet), 161 broad, and 147 high in a ſlant line.

In *Frampton* and *Affpiddle* churches are curious antient pulpits.

Charmouth was the ſcene of two great battles between the Danes and Saxons in the ninth century. King Charles II. attempting after the battle of Worceſter, to get away from hence to France, narrowly eſcaped diſcovery. The cliffs here contain ſuch a quantity of pyrites, ſulphur, and bitumen, that ſudden rains after hot weather have produced an appearance of flame at a diſtance, particularly in 1751.

LYME, another market and borough town, is remarkable for its pier, or *cobb*, a pile of rough ſtones in form of a creſcent, with a bar acroſs the centre, which is at leaſt as antient as the time of Edward III, and is ſtill maintained at a great expence. In the late civil wars this town ſuſtained a ſiege of above ſix weeks againſt the king's forces, 1664.

BEMINSTER, a ſmall market-town of great antiquity, gave birth to Dr. Sprat, biſhop of Rocheſter.

On *Eggardon* hill, in *Aſkerſwell* pariſh, is a large camp, probably Roman. It has a triple rampart and ditch, and two large entrances to the S. E. and N. W. where the ends of the vallum lap over each other. Its area, which is divided by a bank, contains ſix acres; its longeſt diameter is 1386 feet, its ſhorteſt 749. In the middle of the area is a tumulus, probably for a beacon; and other tumuli ſurround the camp. A vicinal way ſeems to have gone from hence to Abbotſbury-caſtle.

Near *Winterborn Abbas*, in a cloſe juſt by the road from Dorcheſter to Bridport, is a Britiſh temple, or circle of nine ſtones, from ſeven to three feet high, and about ſix feet aſunder: the diameter of the circle twenty-eight feet. Half a mile weſt from it, in the road, lies a rude ſtone, about ten feet long and five broad; half a mile further to the right ſtand two others four feet high, and about five paces from them two more ſhorter. On the adjacent down are many barrows of different ſhapes and ſizes.

On *Ridge* hill, in *Portiſham* pariſh, about two miles and a half N. from this temple, is the largeſt and moſt entire Cromlech in the county; a large ſtone, ten feet by ſix, reſting on nine others.

CERNE is a ſmall market town, pleaſantly ſituated in a vale ſurrounded with ſteep hills; its chief trade corn and ale. It was anciently famous for its abbey, founded by Ailmer earl of Cornwall, in the cloſe of the eighth century, for Benedictine monks, on the ſpot where tradition pretends St. Auguſtine, in proof of his miſſion, cauſed a ſpring to iſſue out of the earth, which is ſtill called by his name. All that remains of this houſe is the gateway, adorned with the arms of the founder and benefactors, and a very large ſtone barn, better preſerved than that at Abbotsbury. What is called the abbey houſe, at the head of the high ſtreet, is a manſion houſe built in the laſt century out of the ruins.

On the S. ſide of a very ſteep hill, N. of the town, is cut in the chalk a monſtrous human figure, called the *Giant*, 180 feet high; his left leg extended, his right holding a knotty club. Some figures, as of a date, appear between his legs. It is not eaſy to aſſign the origin of this figure, unleſs we ſuppoſe it repreſents ſome Saxon idol or hero. On the top of the hill over him, has been an ancient fortification, and on the N. point of the hill a barrow.

In the pariſh of *Great Mintern* ſtands *Middlemarſh Grange*, the principal ſeat of the Napiers, before they removed to More-Crichel. It is a large old ſtone manſion houſe, built round a quadrangle, and the windows adorned with arms. In the ſame pariſh the anceſtors of the great duke of Marlborough had an eſtate, now belonging to Mr. Gould.

The vale or foreſt of *Blakemore* comprehending a large tract in the N. W. part of the county between Cerne and Sherborn, was anciently well wooded, but now conſiſts chiefly of paſture, being very well watered. It is alſo called *White Hart Foreſt*, from a tradition that a white hart, whoſe life Henry III. had ſpared in the chaſe, being afterwards killed by ſir Thomas Delalind, a neighbouring gentleman, an annual payment called *White Hart ſilver* was laid on his and his companions lands, which is ſtill continued.

SHERBOURN, which two centuries ago was the moſt frequented town in the county, and carried on a flouriſhing woollen manufacture, retains only its two weekly markets. It was the ſee of a biſhop, whoſe dioceſe, including this county, with thoſe of Berks, Wilts, Somerſet, Devon, and Cornwall, was taken out of Wincheſter by king Ina, A. D. 705. After having ſubſiſted 366 years, it was united to Wilton by biſhop Herman, who ſoon after tranſlated both ſees to Old-Sarum; whence, in 1218, biſhop Poore removed them to Saliſbury. The rich monaſtery here was founded by the Saxon kings, 50 years before the biſhopric. The church being burnt on a quarrel between the monks and townſmen, 1436, was rebuilt as we now ſee it by two of the abbots between 1459 and 1504. It is a beautiful ſtructure, but half the nave was pulled down at the diſſolution. The principal monuments in it are thoſe of the Horſeys and the Digbys. Part of the cloiſters are let into private houſes. On the N. ſide is a large ſtone barn, like thoſe at Abbotſbury and Cerne. The free-ſchool at the E. end of the church was founded by Edward VI. the alms-houſe, on the S. ſide of the yard, by the towns-people, in the reign of Henry VI. The ſtone market-houſe was built by ſir John Horſey. The caſtle was the ancient palace of the biſhops, and, on the removal of the ſee, was given to Oſmund biſhop of Sarum; one of whoſe ſucceſſors, biſhop Roger, in the time of Henry I. rebuilt it. It was the firſt formally beſieged by the parliament, and held out one of the laſt for the king under ſir Lewis Dives, 1645, when it was taken by ſir Thomas Fairfax, and ſoon after demoliſhed. Out of the ruins was built part of the lodge which had been begun by ſir Walter Raleigh, and was finiſhed by George Digby, earl of Briſtol, after the Reſtoration. It has been ſince much improved, and is the ſeat of the preſent earl of Digby.

STALBRIDGE, a market town which carries on a great ſtocking manufacture, is chiefly remarkable for being the reſidence of the celebrated Mr. Robert Boyle, whoſe firſt experiments were made here, in the houſe now Mr. Walters's; and for a neat croſs of one ſtone 21 feet high, with the image of the Baptiſt.

STURMINSTER NEWTON, a ſmall market town, had a caſtle, probably built in the Saxon times, of which only the hill and earth works remain.

SHAFTSBURY, a market and borough-town, ſituate on the W. point of a large hill, has not the leaſt remains of the noble Benedictine nunnery founded A. D. 888, by king Alfred; who appointed his own daughter Ayleva firſt abbeſs of it. In its church was buried the body of Edward the Martyr. This town was ſupplied with water by works raiſed at the coſt of William Benſon, eſq. ſurveyor of the king's works, but they are now neglected.

CRANBORN, a little market town, in a fine champaign country, on the N. E. confines of the county, is the largeſt pariſh in it, being above 40 miles in circumference. Of its Benedictine priory, founded about A. D. 980, there are no remains except the church, which is the fifth for antiquity and ſize in the county; but contains nothing remarkable. Here is a houſe built by ſome of the Cecil family, who take their title of Viſcount from this town. Caſtle hill, a little to the ſouth, has a circular fortification, double trenched; the area ſix acres. Many barrows are ſcattered round about the town.

At *Winborn St. Giles*, two miles from Cranborn, is the ſeat of the earl of Shafteſbury, who takes his title of baron from it. It is a large brick building, ſurrounded by pleaſant grounds and a park, through which the river Allen runs. In the church are monuments of the family.

On the Downs about *Weſt Woodyates* are a great number of barrows, with a vaſt rampart and ditch, called *Grimes Ditch*, croſſing the Roman road which proceeds from Old Sarum to Dorcheſter over the Downs, where its ridge is very bold at Guſſage St. Michaels, &c. Mr. Aubrey ſuppoſed the battle between Boadicia and the Romans was fought here.

More-Crichel, the ancient ſeat of the Napiers, was burnt 1742, but rebuilt by the late ſir William Napier; whoſe eldeſt ſiſter having married the late Humphry Sturt, it is now the property of their ſon Humphry, knight of the ſhire for this county. He has entirely caſed the houſe, adding wings to the four corners, and is ſtill making improvements here, to the neglect of his handſome ſeat at *Horton*, two miles from hence; which, with the ſpacious pieces of water, is ſuffered to go to decay. Two large yew trees cut into groteſque figures of horſemen, which ſtood at the front of the old houſe, have been tranſplanted to the E. ſide of the canal.

In Horton pariſh is *Woodlands*, now a ſeat of ſir Harry Monro, bart. but in the laſt age belonging to that ſingular character ſir George Haſtings, ſon, brother, and uncle, to the earl of Huntingdon. At Winborn St. Giles is a whole-length picture of him, dreſt in a ſtiff-ſkirted lead-colour coat, with knots or tags at his girdle, a white round hat, large band, great boots with long turned-down tops, and ſpurs with a great piece of leather in front; a hunting-pole in his right-hand, and his gloves in his left. Under this picture is the following account of him, drawn by the noble author of the Characteriſtics.

“ In the year 1638 lived Mr. Haſtings, by his quality ſon, brother, and “ uncle to the earl of Huntingdon. He was peradventure an original in “ our age, or rather the copy of our ancient nobility, in hunting, not in

“ warlike times. He was low, very ſtrong, and very active, of a reddiſh flaxen hair; his cloaths always green cloth, and never worth, when new, five pounds. His houſe was perfectly of the old faſhion, in the midſt of a large park well ſtocked with deer; and near the houſe, rabbits for his kitchen; many fiſh-ponds; great ſtore of wood and timber; a bowling-green in it, long but narrow, full of high hedges, it being never levelled ſince it was ploughed; they uſed round ſand bowles, and it had a large banquetting-houſe like a ſtand, built in a tree. He kept all manner of ſport hounds, that ran buck, fox, hare, otter, and badger, and hawkes long and ſhorted winged. He had a walk in the New Foreſt, and the manor of Chriſtchurch; this laſt ſupplied him with red deer, ſea, and river-fiſh; and indeed all his neighbours grounds and royalties were free to him, who beſtowed all his time on theſe ſports, but what he borrowed to careſs his neighbours wives and daughters, there being not a woman in all his walks, of the degree of a yeoman's wife, or under, and under the age of forty, but it was her own fault if he was not intimately acquainted with her. This made him very popular; always ſpeaking kindly to the huſband, brother, or father, who was to boot very welcome to his houſe. Whenever he came there he found beef, pudding, and ſmall-beer in great plenty; the houſe not ſo neatly kept as to ſhame him or his dirty ſhoes; the great hall ſtrewed with marrow-bones; full of hawkes, perches, hounds, ſpanniels, and terriers; the upper ſide of the hall hung with fox-ſkins of this and the laſt year's killing; here and there a pole-cat intermixed; game-keepers and hunters poles in great abundance. The parlour was a large room, as properly furniſhed. On a great hearth, paved with brick, lay ſome terriers, and the choiceſt hounds and ſpanniels. Seldom but two of the great chairs had litters of cats in them, which were not to be diſturbed: he having always three or four attending him at dinner, and a little white ſtick of fourteen inches long lying by his trencher, that he might defend ſuch meat that he had no mind to part with to them. The windows, which were very large, ſerved for places to lay his arrows, croſs-bows, and ſtone-bows, and ſuch like accoutrements; the corners of the room full of the beſt-choſen hunting or hawking poles; his oyſter-table at the lower end, which was of conſtant uſe, twice a-day, all the year round, for he never failed to eat oyſters, both dinner and ſupper-time, all ſeaſons: the neighbouring town of Poole ſupplied him with them. The upper part of the room had two ſmall tables, and a deſk, on the one ſide of which was a Church-Bible, and on the other ſide, the Book of Martyrs: on the tables were hawkes hoods, bells, and ſuch like; two or three old green hats, with their crowns thurſt in, ſo as to hold ten or a dozen eggs, which were of the pheaſant kind of poultry; theſe he took much care of, and fed himſelf. Tables, dice, cards, and books, were not wanting. In the hole of the deſk were ſtore of tobacco pipes that had been uſed. On one ſide of this end of the room was the door of a cloſet, wherein ſtood the ſtrong beer and the wine, which never came from thence but in ſingle glaſſes, that

“ being the rule of the houſe, exactly obſerved, for he never exceeded in
“ drink, or permitted it. On the other ſide was the door of an old chapel,
“ not uſed for devotion; the pulpit, as the ſafeſt place, was never wanting
“ of a cold chine of beef, veniſon-paſty, gammon of bacon, or a great
“ apple-pye, with thick cruſt, extremely baked. His table coſt him not
“ much, though it was good to eat at. His ſports ſupplied all but beef or
“ mutton, except Fridays, when he had the beſt of ſalt-fiſh, as well as
“ other fiſh he could get; and this was the day his neighbours of beſt qua-
“ lity viſited him. He never wanted a London pudding, and always ſung
“ it in, “ With my part lyes thereina.” He drank a glaſs or two of wine
“ at meals; very often put ſyrup of gilly-flowers in his ſack, and had al-
“ ways a tun-glaſs without feet, ſtood by him, holding a pint of ſmall
“ beer, which he often ſtirred with roſemary. He was well-natured, but
“ ſoon angry, calling his ſervants Baſtards and Cuckoldry Knaves, in one of
“ which he often ſpoke truth, to his own knowlege, and ſometimes in both,
“ though of the ſame man. He lived to be an hundred, and never loſt his
“ eye-ſight, but always wrote and read without ſpectacles, and got on horſe-
“ back without help. Until paſt fourſcore, he rode to the death of a ſtag
“ as well as any.”

In this pariſh is the ruined chapel of *Knolton*, whoſe oblong yard is incloſed by a large, deep, circular entrenchment of about an acre. The ſpace between this and the yard is very unequal, and contains ſeveral tumuli with the hollows whence they ſeem to have been dug. About 20 yards ſouth from this are traces of a much larger intrenchment, which ſeems intended to incloſe 15 acres, though now only a ſegment of a circle, with two large gaps in it. In ſome parts the vallum is very high, and the ditch (which is on the inſide) broad. The entrance is on the weſt. The turnpike road from Saliſbury to Pool croſſes it; and a raiſed road pointing ſouth runs from the vallum to the river. The dairy houſe built by the late Mr. Seymour ſtands nearly in the centre of this work. On every ſide for near two miles round are ſcattered many tumuli. Of thoſe neareſt to it two are in Knolton field, one planted with trees by Lord Shafteſbury, the other almoſt levelled; four encircle the ſouth ſide of the works, one of which being levelled was found to contain four human ſkeletons. Two more remain in *Barrow* field, and another planted in *Wimborn-chard*. In levelling the vallum on the ſouth ſide a great quantity of human bones, with ſpear heads and pieces of iron were found juſt without it. Badbury points S. E. from theſe works.

Woodland houſe was rebuilt by the late Mr. Seymour's grandfather, but the chapel, with the pulpit &c. remains in its original ſtate. In a field adjoining is a very large oak.

On a large heath, called *Shags heath*, about a mile and a half from Woodland, and on the ſame eſtate, is an aſh tree, under which the unfortunate duke of Monmouth was apprehended. The tradition of the neighbourhood is, that after the defeat at Sedgemore the duke and lord Lumley quitted their horſes at Woodyates, whence the former, diſguiſed as a peaſant, wandered hither. He dropped his gold ſnuff-box in a pea-field, where it was afterwards found full of gold pieces, and brought to Mrs. Uvedale of Horton: one of the finders had fifteen pounds for half the contents or value of it. The duke went on to the *Iſland* as it is called, a cluſter of ſmall farms in the middle of the heath, and there concealed himſelf in a deep ditch under the aſh. When the purſuers came up, a woman who lived in a neighbouring cott gave information of his being ſomewhere in the iſland, which was immediately ſurrounded by ſoldiers, who paſt the night there, and threatned to fire the neighbouring cotts. As they were going away next morning, one of them eſpied the brown ſkirt of the duke's coat, and ſeized him. The ſoldier no ſooner knew him than he burſt into tears, and reproached himſelf for the unhappy diſcovery. The family of the woman who firſt gave the information are ſaid to have fallen into decay, and never thriven afterwards. The duke was carried before Anthony Ettrick eſq. of Holt, a juſtice of peace, who ordered him to London. Being aſked, What he would do if ſet at liberty? he anſwered, if his horſe and arms were reſtored, he only deſired to ride through the army, and he defied them all to take him again. Farmer Kerley's grandmother, lately dead, ſaw him, and deſcribed him as a black, genteel, tall man, with a dejected countenance. The cloſe where he concealed himſelf is called *Monmouth Cloſe*, and is the extremeſt N. E. field of the iſland. The tree ſtands in a hedge on a ſteep bank, and is covered with initials of the names of perſons who have been to ſee it.

At *Tarrant Gunvile* is a magnificent houſe of the Grenville family, built by Vanbrugh, and laſt tenanted by lord Melcombe.

WINBOURN MINSTER is one of the moſt ancient towns in this county, and its pariſh one of the moſt extenſive. Here was a nunnery founded by Cuthburga, ſiſter of king Ina, in the beginning of the eighth century; and by one of the Saxon kings of the name of Edward converted into a houſe of ſecular canons, and afterwards made collegiate for a dean, four prebendaries, &c. After the Reformation theſe were changed for three miniſters, three clerks, and four choriſters, as it now ſubſiſts; and Cardinal Pole was one of the deans. The church is a fine remain of Saxon architecture, 180 feet from E. to W. 60 from N. to S. excluſive of the tranſepts. The lofty ſtone ſpire on the eaſt tower was blown down about 1613. In the choir is a ſtone with an epitaph on a braſs plate for king Ethelred, who was ſlain in battle with the Danes, A. D. 872. On the ſouth ſide is a beautiful monument, with the figures of John Beaufort duke of Somerſet, who died 1444, and Margaret his wife, grandmother to Henry VII. Oppoſite to this on the north ſide is an altar tomb with an imperfect inſcription for Gertrude wife of Henry Courtney, marquis of Exeter, who died 1558, being pardoned for the treaſon of which ſhe was attainted, and for which her huſband loſt his head, 30 H. VIII. Under the choir is a curious vault or crypt, with a ſtone roof ſupported by a ſingle pillar. In the ſouth wall of the church is a wooden coffin incloſing the body of Anthony Ettrick eſq. of Holt lodge above mentioned; who, being offended with the inhabitants of Winborn, proteſted he never would be buried in their church or church yard, ſo that his executors were forced to bury him in this manner, 1703. In this church was the only choir ſervice in the county, which is now diſcontinued, except on ſundays and holidays.

Here is a free-ſchool founded by Margaret counteſs of Richmond, mother of Henry VII. re-founded after the reformation by queen Elizabeth as it ſtill ſubſiſts. At the weſt end of the town is an hoſpital of very antient foundation for five poor men and two women.

In Winborn pariſh is *Badbury hill*, a Roman camp uſed by the Saxons, particularly king Edward the elder, when he marched againſt his couſin Ethelwald, A. D. 901. It is circular, fortified with a triple rampart and trench, and near a mile in circuit, and the area 18 acres, with two entrances on the E. and W. Roman coins, urns, and a ſword were dug up here 1665.

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